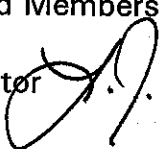


City of La Quinta

TO: The Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
The Honorable Chairman and Members of the Planning Commission

FROM: Les Johnson, Planning Director 

DATE: February 1, 2011

SUBJECT: Department Report - General Plan Monthly Update

The holidays were a busy time for the General Plan Update. Staff has been following up to incorporate the Council's discussion and feedback from their December 7th meeting discussing the land use map and goals. At this point, staff has also completed a first draft of most of the General Plan elements. The few remaining elements to be written (Traffic and Circulation, Economic Development, Land Use, and Air Quality) are generally reliant on special studies expected to be completed in the coming months.

In December, members of the General Plan Technical Advisory Committee took the opportunity to review a complete Public Infrastructure and Services chapter. Staff is currently implementing their suggestions into a revised draft. The chapter incorporated the new layout and formatting for the General Plan, providing a better sense of the overall appearance and how the document will work.

Also last month, staff hosted a Scoping Meeting for the preparation of the Environmental Impact Report. The purpose of the meeting was to provide other public agencies, utilities, and interest groups the opportunity to discuss their areas of concern or interest with the General Plan. Representatives of the City of Coachella and County Supervisor Benoit's office attended the meeting. Discussion topics primarily focused on planning cooperation within the Sphere of Influence.

The next few months will see the completion of most remaining draft General Plan elements, further Chapter reviews by the Technical Advisory Committee, and the completion of a number of outstanding special studies, including the City's Comprehensive Traffic Impact Analysis and updated Traffic Forecast Model.